

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5771

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, US

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS AMONG POLICY PLANNING STAFFS

REF: STATE 192211

1. EMBASSY'S INITIAL VIEWS ON QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 9 (REFTEL) FOLLOW.

2. POTENTIAL HOST PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS, AND HOW TO INVOLVE THEM. THERE IS NO FOREIGN POLICY PLANNING STAFF AS SUCH IN THE GOV. POLICY PLANNING IN VENEZUELA IS STRICTLY THE PROVINCE OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, SHARED TO SOME EXTENT WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO AND MINISTER OF PLANNING GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ. FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT WOULD TAKE A SECONDARY PLACE WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS.

3. DEMANDS ON TIME OF THESE THREE KEY MINISTERS ARE TREMENDOUS, BOTH BY PRESIDENT PEREZ AND BY A MULTITUDE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES. PRESIDENT PEREZ IS LIVING UP TO HIS CAMPAIGN MOTTO OF "DEMOCRACY WITH ENERGY," AND IS PLACING UPON THESE MINISTERS WORKLOADS WHICH MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY ONE OF THEM WOULD BE ABLE TO DEVOTE AS MUCH AS TWO DAYS TO SESSIONS WITH WASHINGTON PLANNERS, AND ONE OR

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MORE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL.

4. AT THE SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE S/P GROUP TO MEET WITH AMB. JOHN RAFAEL - DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AMB. LEONARDO DIAZ GONZALEZ - DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY; MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; DR. JESUS FERNANDEZ - DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE; DR. HELLY TINEO - DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CORDIPLAN; DR. EDUARDO SOTO - ASSISTANT TO PEREZ GUERRERO.

5. TOPICS TO BE COVERED, INCLUDING ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO HOST COUNTRIES. KEY VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING S/P VIEWS ON GLOBAL FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS. THEY WOULD BE STILL MORE INTERESTED IN HEMISPHERIC ISSUES, WHICH MAY, IN TURN, HELP TO ELICIT THEIR VIEWS ON THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WHICH THEY SEE FACING THE U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP OVER THE LONGER TERM.

6. SPECIFIC ISSUES LIKELY TO CONCERN THEM ARE: (1) PRICE INDEXING BETWEEN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS; (2) ASSURED ACCESS TO SHORT SUPPLY COMMODITIES; (3) PROGRESS ON UNITED STATES TRADE BILL AND EXPANSION OF NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS; (4) VENEZUELAN ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN LIGHT OF ITS (A) MEMBERSHIP IN ANDREAN PACT, (B) ABUNDANT FOREIGN EXCHANGE, (C) NEED FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER; (5) POSSIBILITIES FOR VENEZUELAN INVESTMENT IN UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY IN DOWNSTREAM PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES; (6) UTILIZATION OF VENEZUELA PETROLEUM REVENUES DOMESTICALLY AND EXTERNALLY.

7. POSSIBLE TIMING, DURATION AND ORGANIZATION OF VISIT. THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY SURROUNDING CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE GOV-COMPANY NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NATIONALIZATION OF IRON ORE AND PETROLEUM INTERESTS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND, AND TO AVOID MISINTERPRETATIONS THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS LETTING THE GOV PROPOSE A TIME FOR THE VISIT. THUS, WHEN WE CONVEY OUR INTEREST IN HAVING POLICY PLANNING DISCUSSIONS, WE MIGHT SUGGEST A GENERAL TIME FRAME BUT ASK THE VENEZUELAN THEMSELVES TO SUGGEST A SPECIFIC DATE. AS FOR DURATION, TWO DAYS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH VENEZUELAN PLANNERS.

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